include raising more battalions of the Railway Protection Force to man moving trains after Maoists detained a passenger train in Latehar, Jharkhand, for several hours in March, 2006;

(b) whether the plan involves the deployment of armed personnel of RPF and Government Railway Police on moving trains plying across Naxalite-infested areas;

(c) whether Railways have initiated process or raising more RPF battalions and training course of RPF personnel; and

(d) to what extent it has been helpful in checking the attacks on Railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Railways have decided to put in place a counter strategy that would include raising additional manpower of the Railway Protection Force in the wake of the incident of detention of train on 13.03.2006 in Latehar district in Jharkhand and other naxal attacks on Railway property in Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand, West Bengal etc. and increased threat perception on account of activities of extremist groups in Jammu and Kashmir, North-East and naxal affected States. The idea is not to substitute Government Railway Police or the State police with Railway Protection Force but to deploy armed Railway Protection Force personnel, adequately trained and equipped, on escort duty in trains particularly on the sections identified as vulnerable in naxal affected areas, so as to act as a deterrent.

(d) Naxalites activities is an ongoing problem. However, it is expected that training and modernization of Railway Protection Force personnel will yield fruitful results in near future for Railway security.

Freight corridor project in Tamil Nadu

1318. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total length of freight corridor formed in each State with the dates of commencement of such projects in each State;

(b) the perspective Plan of this project, State-wise; and

(c) the position of Tamil Nadu in this context?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) State-wise approximate route length in Kilometres of Western and Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridors is given as under:

States	Eastern	Western
Bihar	92	-
Delhi	-	43
Gujarat	-	526
Haryana	76	135
Maharashtra	-	192
Punjab	110	
Rajasthan	-	555
Uttar Pradesh	1000	32

The Dedicated Freight Corridor Project is not confied to any individual State and hence State-wise plan is not developed. Ministry of Railways is getting the feasibility studies done for other freight corridors like North-South, East-South and South-South Corridors which will serve Tamil Nadu.

Pending rail projects of Rajasthan and Orissa

1319. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of railway projects from Rajasthan and Orissa which are pending for completion till-date, State-wise;

(b) the amount allotted in respect of above projects during each of the last three years alongwith the amount released till-date, project-wise; and

(c) the details of projects running behind the schedule and action being taken for their completion indicating by when these are expected to be completed including funds likely to be allocated during the year 2007-08, State-wise?